



## Press Clipping Article

**Title:** Pride of Kentucky Showcase is set at Exposition Center

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**Lead:**

The Pride of Kentucky Showcase, which starts at noon Thursday at Western Kentucky University's L.D. Brown Exposition Center, aims to spotlight local agritourism businesses.

### Article:

The Pride of Kentucky Showcase, which starts at noon Thursday at Western Kentucky University's L.D. Brown Exposition Center, aims to spotlight local agritourism businesses.

The event runs until 8 p.m. and features live music, pony rides and a cooking school at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children 5 and older, and children younger than 5 get in free.

Bowling Green hosts the annual event, in its third year, because it's an important hub for Kentucky's farming economy, according to Bill Clary, public relations director for the state's department of agriculture.

The Kentucky Agritourism Advisory Council chose the theme "Kentucky farms are fun" to commemorate this year's showcase, he said.

"It's an opportunity to bring the consumer to the farm, so they can enjoy the rural landscape and they can be reacquainted with their rural heritage," said Janet Johnson, Allen County's extension agent for family and consumer sciences who co-chaired the showcase's steering committee.

The event is sponsored by Cave Region Agritourism, a network of farms specializing in tourism and entertainment, she said. Bill Jackson, owner of Jackson's Orchard in Warren County, is the president, and Carl Chaney, owner of Chaney's Dairy Barn on Nashville Road, is the secretary.

The showcase gives customers the chance to purchase Kentucky farm products, which she said represent good value and freshness. By cultivating relationships with local producers, consumers have more control over their food supply, in contrast to shopping at large grocery chains, which tend to sell food from other states and overseas.

In summary, Kentucky is made up of many low-acreage farms. State farmers have made a concerted effort to diversify their harvests and reduce tobacco yields, she said.

“Tobacco is still a large crop, but it is by no means the crop that it was even five years ago in Kentucky,” Johnson said.

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